benchmark its performance against global standards. Work is in progress on a number of projects included in the Programme.

(b) to (e) Apart from the 12 major ports under the Government of India, as part of the Government's efforts to promote coastal shipping, the Department of Shipping has identified select non-major ports for development under NMDP. Out of the two non-major ports, namely, Azhikkal and Vizhinjam, details of which were submitted by the Government of Kerala, Azhikkal Port has been identified for the purpose. In addition, six other non-major ports, namely, Gopalpur in Orissa, Malpe in Karnataka, Dharamtar in Maharashtra, Magdalla in Gujarat, Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu and Gangavaram in Andhra Pradesh and Azhikkal in Kerala have also been identified for purpose.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of New Nuclear Plants

256. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it proposed to set up more nuclear plants following Indo-U.S. deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The ongoing Indo-US dialogue for international cooperation in the nuclear energy field can open up the possibilities for setting up nuclear power plants based on imports. The details can be finalized only on conclusion of the dialogue for international cooperation.

Nuclear plants in West Bengal and Orissa

257. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to locate a nuclear plant in West Bengal;